



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District
Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Re: Parole Denied for Blanusa

Contact: Carol Shipley

Assistant District Attorney

Phone: (209) 525-5550

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rudy Blanusa, age 57, was found unsuitable for parole at a March 9, 2010 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at the California Medical Facility, Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued incarceration based on the violent nature of the offense and a lack of rehabilitation. The hearing was attended by several of the victims' next of kin who opposed parole.

On October 14, 1986, Blanusa and crime partners Chris Towler and Ed Haro killed Gilbert and Joseph Flores after they accused the Floreses of burglarizing Ed Haro's home. Haro had threatened on several occasions to kill the persons who stole his property and went in search of them with Blanusa and Towler. The Flores brothers were kidnapped at gunpoint and taken to a remote orchard in rural Stanislaus County where they were shot over ten times by three different guns. Blanusa and his crime partners then left the Flores brothers to bleed to death in the orchard while they went to a bar and drank beer. Blanusa was affiliated with several Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, including the Hell's Angels and Barhoppers, and claimed to have committed this murder to avenge a failed drug transaction.

Blanusa fled before law enforcement could arrest him. After several years in hiding, he was captured in Canada after his case was profiled on "America's Most Wanted" and a viewer turned him in to the authorities. Blanusa, Ed Haro, and Chris Towler were all convicted at jury trials of two counts of murder and two counts of kidnaping with firearms allegations in 1990, 1988 & 1986, respectively. They were all sentenced to over thirty years-to-life in prison. Blanusa was being considered for parole for the first time. He will be scheduled for another hearing in seven years. Haro has had several parole requests denied in the past few years and Towler has not yet had his first parole hearing.